United Nations S/2003/859

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 September 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 3 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Liberia issued on 22 August 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-49041 (E) 080903

Annex to the letter dated 3 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Liberia by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in Accra on Monday, 18 August 2003 by the warring parties and the political parties under the aegis of ECOWAS as a fundamental step towards restoring peace, security and stability in Liberia after 14 years of violence and misrule.

The European Union commends ECOWAS, its Chairman, President John Kufour, its Executive Secretary, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, and the Mediator General, Abdusalami Abubakar, for their untiring efforts that have led to the successful outcome. It also commends Nigeria, which played a key role, for swiftly making available troops to be deployed to protect the civilian population and humanitarian relief. It expresses its appreciation to the African States that have announced their participation in the Economic Community of West African States Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL) and to the United States of America for its support of the deployment and activity of said force. In this regard the European Union stresses the importance of completing as soon as possible the deployment of ECOMIL as a vanguard force of the United Nations stabilization force, in accordance with resolution 1497 (2003), and reiterates its readiness to support it.

The European Union calls upon all the parties to the Agreement to implement it in good faith and to establish on 14 October 2003 a transitional Government that will lead the country to free and fair elections in October 2005, thus restoring a fully elected democratic Government.

The European Union calls on Liberia's neighbouring States to desist from any action that might encourage a resumption of tensions or of violent confrontation in the country.

Deeply concerned at the gravity of the humanitarian situation prevailing in Liberia, the European Union expresses its gratitude to humanitarian agencies that operate in favour of the populations in need and calls upon all parties to cooperate fully in this endeavour.

The acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.